

Eg. claim 1 was amended to recite a “standard pump including a water manifold inlet” (such standard pumps were discussed in the specification on page 5) wherein the fitting (connecting to the additive source) is established on a suction set of the pump “upstream of the pump water manifold inlet.” Claims 9 and 17 were analogously amended. Claim 16 was amended to recite means established on a suction side of the pump “upstream of the pump water manifold inlet,” the means for being connecting an additive supply line with a suction side of the pump.

Hollan teaches inputting additive into a port of a water inlet manifold itself. This is similar to the prior art of Figure 1 (discussed in the Spec. page 5, lines 8-13.) As illustrated in Figures 2-5, Applicant’s “fitting” for the input of additive is claimed to be established upstream of the water manifold inlet (included with a standard pump, as discussed and illustrated.) Applicant’s independent claims further recite “a fitting at least initially separate from the pump” which can be utilized with “a standard pump.”

A fitting initially separate from a standard pump (and attaching said fitting upstream of a standard pump water manifold inlet) has particular relevance to the invention. An advantage of the invention is to allow a fire fighter to adapt a standard pump found at a site to operate as an around-the-pump additive system, using the above “fitting” and the connection scheme.

There is no teaching or suggestion in Hollan that Hollan’s “element 30” is separate from the pump or that the pump is a standard pump. One of the skill in the art would conclude from reading Hollan as a whole that Hollan’s truck is specially outfitted with the pump and additive connection and is a special purpose apparatus and must be brought together to a fire, not constructed ad hoc at the site.

In regard to the Examiner’s 103 proposed combination adding either Williams or Worthington, determining whether Hollan’s system could be operated at 2000 gpm would require securing expert technical opinions. Such appeared unnecessary in light of the above distinction of

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Applicant's system from Hollan's system. Given that the amended claims distinguish over primary reference Hollan for the elements therein cited, such opinion appeared unnecessary.

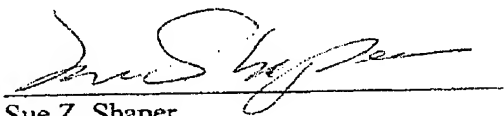
Reconsideration and further examination is respectfully requested.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Sue Z. Shaper, Applicants' Attorney at 713 550 5710 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

1/10/5
Date


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